



CALL FOR CONCEPTS

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is pleased to announce that it is currently accepting applications from prospective partners that are either indigenous local NGOs (LNGOs) or Private and Voluntary Organizations based in the United States (US PVOs) for the Development Grants Program (DGP).

The Development Grants Program (DGP) is a competitive small grants program, established in 2008, was designed to expand the number of direct partnerships USAID has with U.S. PVOs and indigenous, local NGOs and to build the capacity of these organizations to better meet the needs of their constituents. The DGP provides an opportunity for U.S. PVOs and local NGOs to make contributions to USAID's objectives to address the development challenges of local communities through strengthening civil society organizations.

Subject to the availability of funds, USAID intends to provide up to US\$45 million in total USAID funding worldwide. Awards will be funded under this Request for Applications (RFA) and will support activities for up to a five-year period.

USAID/Jamaica anticipates awarding grants of US\$1.5 million or less. Focal areas related to Jamaica are Climate Change; Human Rights; and Basic Education.

SECTOR 1: Climate Change

USAID/Jamaica works with farmers, communities, civil society, and government partners to increase resilience to climate change impacts in rural (agriculture) areas; USAID is looking to implement activities to reduce vulnerability of climate change impacts in poor, urban communities identified under the Government of Jamaica's (GoJ's) Community Renewal Program. Moreover, USAID/Jamaica is currently developing a program with the Government of Jamaica to promote sustainable, climate-resilient economic growth while slowing greenhouse gas emissions, with the expected outcome to increase consideration of low emission planning principles into government planning.

SECTOR 2: Human Rights

Jamaica faces several human rights challenges which are a direct result of antiquated laws, cultural norms and a limited safety net. Vulnerable populations, especially women, unattached youth and the LGBT community are disproportionately affected by these circumstances. Domestic violence plays a key role in socializing youth to violence as a means of dispute resolution.

In an effort to assist GoJ's strategic priority outlined in Vision 2030: to make Jamaican society secure, cohesive and just, thereby empowering individuals to achieve their fullest potential, USAID/Jamaica intends to support this national priority through its proposed Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) program. Although the new program is anticipated to be broad in scope, a component to address the specific human rights needs of vulnerable populations is missing.

SECTOR 3: Basic Education

USAID/Jamaica seeks to address the impact of persistently low levels of reading performance in the early grades of targeted primary schools. USAID seeks to support projects focused on implementing more individualized instruction for students in the early grades who are experiencing extreme difficulties in achieving acceptable reading levels. The education system needs an innovative approach to address this problem at the classroom level and to

allow low-performing students to receive individualized instruction in reading. Opportunities exist to collaborate with the private sector to leverage their resources to implement strategies that will engage parents, teachers, and students to improve classroom activities in order to improve early grade reading.

Concept Paper Submission Information

**THE DEADLINE FOR PROJECT CONCEPT SUBMISSION IS
Thursday, August 15, 2013 by 12:00 noon local time.**

Only electronic applications will be accepted. Email documents to dgpjamaica@usaid.gov and copy DGP@usaid.gov. In the subject line of your email submissions, please include: "Concept Paper for DGP-5, submitted to USAID/Jamaica by: [name of your organization]".
Mailed, hand-delivered or faxed concept papers will not be accepted.

Concept papers will be screened and applicants will be notified of the acceptance/decline of their project concept within five weeks of the date received by the USAID/Jamaica office with applicable instructions. If accepted, the applicant will be asked to submit a project proposal. The concept paper format and required content are described in the Request for Applications posted on <http://www.grants.gov>.

USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted.

Visit <http://www.grants.gov> Funding Opportunity # RFA-OAA-13-000020 "Development Grants Program (DGP)" issued on July 8, 2013 for the full RFA.